



Town of Chatham
Office of the Selectmen
Town Manager
549 Main Street
Chatham, MA 02633



Jill R. Goldsmith
TOWN MANAGER
jgoldsmith@chatham-ma.gov

Tel: (508) 945-5105
Fax: (508) 945-3550
www.chatham-ma.gov

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - March 21, 2020

Media Contact:

Robert Duncanson, Ph.D., Director of Health & Natural Resources
Town of Chatham
(508) 945-5165
rduncanson@chatham-ma.gov

CHATHAM ANNOUNCES FIRST POSITIVE CASE OF COVID-19

Town officials were notified today of the first positive case of COVID-19 in Chatham. In compliance with Health Information Privacy laws, identifying information on this individual will not be released. Close contacts of the individual are being contacted and directed to self-isolate.

As community spread of COVID-19 increases across the region, it was inevitable that a community member would be affected. As testing capabilities increase, it is likely that additional cases will be identified in Chatham.

Town officials are urging everyone to take the recommended steps of social distancing, limiting exposure to others, frequent handwashing, and proper respiratory etiquette seriously to limit the spread of the virus.

The Town's Emergency Operations Center is activated on a limited daytime-only (8 AM to 4 PM) basis, Monday through Friday, to coordinate the Town's response to COVID-19. This schedule will be reviewed and expanded, if necessary. The public can reach the Emergency Operations Center by calling 508-945-5191 or via email to chathameoc@chatham-ma.gov. Staff and volunteers will answer questions and provide information on services available.

Residents and visitors should visit the following sites for accurate, updated information:

1. <https://www.chatham-ma.gov/home/pages/covid-19-coronavirus-information>
2. <https://www.mass.gov/resource/information-on-the-outbreak-of-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>
3. <https://www.cdc.gov/>

or call the State's 2-1-1 (dial 211, #Call2Talk, www.mass211.org) system for free, confidential, multi-lingual information and referral to local resources.

Any person who is experiencing symptoms such as a fever, and cough or difficulty breathing is encouraged to self-isolate and call your healthcare provider for medical advice. High risk individuals, including older adults, those with underlying medical conditions (heart or lung disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, weakened immune system, anyone who is pregnant), are urged to avoid others to the greatest extent possible.

###